

METHOD OF PREPARING A PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVE

ABSTRACT

- 5 The present invention relates to a method of preparing a pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising the steps of:
- (i) providing an essentially solvent-free mixture comprising one or more free radically polymerizable monomers having one ethylenically unsaturated group and at least one free-radical polymerization initiator,
 - 10 (ii) partially polymerizing said mixture to provide a partially polymerized mixture exhibiting a Brookfield viscosity of between 1,000 and 125,000 mPa·s at 20 °C and a degree of conversion of monomers to polymer of between 30 – 60 wt. % with respect to the initial mass of the monomers prior to polymerization,
 - 15 (iii) adding one or more free-radical radiation polymerization initiators to the partially polymerized mixture to provide a radiation-curable precursor,
 - (iv) applying the radiation-curable precursor to a substrate, and
 - (v) further polymerizing the radiation-curable precursor by subjecting it to actinic irradiation to provide said pressure-sensitive adhesive.